

IBM RT Advanced Interactive Executive Operating System Version 2.2

AIX Operating System Commands Reference Volume 1

Programming Family



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AIX Operating System[®]

Commands Reference

Volume 1

Programming Family



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About This Book

This book contains reference information on Advanced Interactive Executive (AIX) Operating System commands. It describes the commands you can use and summarizes who can run them, how to run them, what they do, how they read input, how they write output, and how to modify their actions.

Who Should Use This Book

To use this book, you should be familiar with AIX or UNIX System V commands. If you are not already familiar with AIX or UNIX System V, see *Using the AIX Operating System*. If you are familiar with the commands but need to review how to use the shell and write shell procedures, see “**sh**” on page 913.

How To Use This Book

Most of the AIX commands described in this book are in alphabetical order by command name. Some related commands are combined in one description listed with a main or key command. The related commands have an entry with the main command in the table of contents and are listed individually in alphabetical order in the index. If you are having difficulty locating a particular command, check the “Contents” or “Index” sections of this publication.

Command Information

The “Commands” section begins on page 11. A discussion of a command may include the following information:

Purpose	A single-sentence description of the major function of each command
Syntax	A <i>syntax diagram</i> that shows command line options (For a discussion of how to use this syntax diagram, see “Syntax Diagrams” on page 5.)
Description	A discussion of the command that provides more details about its function and use

Flags	A list of command line flags and associated parameters with an explanation of how the flags modify the action of the command
Subcommands	A list of subcommands (for interactive commands) that explains their use
Examples	Specific examples of how you can use the command
Files	A list of files used by the command
Related Information	A list of related commands in this book and related discussions in other books.

For details on other conventions used in this book, see “How to Use the Commands” on page 3.

A Task Index

“Task Index” on page TASK-1 can help you locate the commands you need to perform specific tasks. It contains lists of commands grouped by task. Next to each command is a description of what it does. To find a command that performs a specific task, locate the task in the table of contents at the beginning of the task index, go to the indicated page and review the list of commands associated with that task, then select the desired command. For more information about the command, refer to the discussion of the command in the “Commands” section.

Other Reference Aids

A cross-reference listing of commands and program packages appears in Appendix B, “Program Cross-Reference” on page 1269. Appendix C, “Syntax Diagram Guide” on page 1277 contains a detailed description of how to read syntax diagrams. The standard system devices are described in Appendix A, “AIX Device Table” on page 1267. A “Glossary” of terms appears after the Appendixes, followed by an “Index.”

In addition, a Reader’s Comment Form and Book Evaluation Form are provided at the back of the second volume of this publication. Use the Reader’s Comment Form at any time to give IBM information that may improve the book. After you have become familiar with the book, use the Book Evaluation Form to give IBM specific feedback about the book.

Japanese Language Support

Appendix D, “Japanese Language Support” on page 1287 contains a list of commands that have not been modified to support Japanese characters.

Special Key Sequences

You can use the AIX Operating System from any of several different display stations, each of which has a different keyboard. In some cases, you must press different keys to perform the same function from different keyboards. Throughout this publication both the function name (for example, INTERRUPT) and the necessary key sequence on the IBM RT system are identified. If you are not using an IBM RT Keyboard, look at your keyboard reference chart to find out which keys on your keyboard produce the same function.

Prerequisite Information

- *IBM RT Managing the AIX Operating System* provides instructions for performing such system management tasks as adding and deleting user IDs, creating and mounting file systems, repairing file system damage, and managing data communications facilities.
- *IBM RT Using the AIX Operating System* describes using the AIX Operating System commands, working with file systems, developing shell procedures, and using data communications facilities.

Related Information

- *IBM RT AIX Operating System Programming Tools and Interfaces* describes the programming environment of the AIX Operating System and includes information about using the operating system tools to develop, compile, and debug programs. In addition, this book describes the operating system services and how to take advantage of them in a program. This book also includes a diskette that includes programming examples, written in C language, to illustrate using system calls and subroutines in short, working programs. (Available optionally)
- *IBM RT AIX Operating System Technical Reference* is a four-volume set.
 - System Calls and Subroutines*, describes the system calls and subroutines that a C programmer uses to write programs for the AIX Operating System.
 - Files and Extensions*, contains information about the extensions to the kernel and base operating system, including file formats, special files, and GSL subroutines.
 - VRM Programming Support*, describes the VRM programming environment, including the internal VRM routines, VRM floating-point support, use of the VRM debugger, and the supervisor call instructions that form the Virtual Machine Interface.
 - VRM Device Support*, describes device IPL and configuration, minidisk management, the virtual terminal and block I/O subsystems, as well as the interfaces to VRM device driver and data link control components. This volume also describes the programming

conventions for developing your own VRM code and installing it on the system.
(Available optionally)

- *IBM RT Using DOS Services* provides step-by-step information for using AIX Operating System **shell**. (Available optionally; packaged with *IBM RT DOS Services Reference*)
- *IBM RT DOS Services Reference* provides reference information about the AIX Operating System **shell**. This book also includes information on sharing DOS files with Personal Computer AT Coprocessor Services, and on the differences between PC DOS and **shell**. (Available optionally; packaged with *IBM RT Using DOS Services*)
- *IBM RT C Language Guide and Reference* provides guide information for writing, compiling, and running C language programs and includes reference information about C language data structures, operators, expressions, and statements. (Available optionally)
- *IBM RT Messages Reference* lists messages displayed by the IBM RT and explains how to respond to the messages.
- *IBM RT AIX Operating System Text Formatting Guide* describes the functions and capabilities of NROFF and TROFF to perform text processing tasks. (Available optionally)
- *IBM RT Bibliography and Master Index* provides brief descriptive overviews of the books and tutorial program that support the IBM RT hardware and the AIX Operating System. In addition, this book contains an index to the RT and AIX Operating System library.

See *IBM RT Bibliography and Master Index* for order numbers of IBM RT publications and diskettes.

Ordering Additional Copies of This Book

To order additional copies of this publication (without program diskettes), use either of the following sources:

- To order from your IBM representative, use Order Number SBOF-1814.
- To order from your IBM dealer, use Part Number 27F4354.

A binder is included with the order. For information on ordering the binder and manual separately, contact your IBM representative or your IBM dealer.

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VOLUME 1

How to Use the Commands

This section contains a description of:

- Command input and output
- File name substitution by the shell
- Syntax diagrams
- Command, flag, and parameter notation.

To help you determine which command you want to use, see “Task Index” on page TASK-1. To help you determine in which program a command is located, see Appendix B, “Program Cross-Reference” on page 1269.

Command Input and Output

Many commands take their input from *standard input* and write their output to *standard output*. By default, standard input comes from the keyboard, and standard output goes to the display. It is important to remember this information as you read the command descriptions since they describe the default action. In this context, the verb *display* means “write to the standard output.” Any command that reads standard input and writes to standard output can have its input or output redirected to a file and can be used in a *pipeline*, where the standard output of a previous command is directed to the standard input of the next command. For more information on pipelines, see “sh” on page 913.

There are a few commands that must have a file name supplied or that must read standard input. You can see what a particular command can read by looking at the syntax diagram at the beginning of the description of the command. For instructions on interpreting syntax diagrams, see “Syntax Diagrams” on page 5.

File Name Substitution

When *file* is supplied as an argument to either a command or a flag, you can automatically produce a list of file name arguments by specifying a pattern for the shell to match with file names in a directory. Most characters in such a pattern match themselves, but you can also use some special *pattern-matching characters* in your pattern. These special characters are:

- * Matches any string, including the null string.
- ? Matches any one character.
- [. . .] Matches any one of the characters enclosed in square brackets.
- [! . . .] Matches any character *other than* one of the characters that follow the exclamation mark within square brackets.

Inside square brackets, a pair of characters separated by a - (minus) specifies a set of all characters that collate within the range of that pair, as defined by the variable **NLCTAB** or **NLFILE**, so that [a-dy] is equivalent to [abcdy] if only b and c collate between a and d.

Japanese Language Support Information

You can also use *character classes* inside square brackets by enclosing the character class name between a [: and a :] inside the square brackets. For example, [[:alpha:]] matches any alphanumeric character. The character classes recognized are:

[lower:] All lowercase letters.

[upper:] All uppercase letters.
[alpha:] All letters.
[digit:] Digits 0 - 9.
[alnum:] All letters and digits.
[print:] All printable characters.
[punct:] All punctuation characters.
[space:] Space, tab, form feed, or carriage return.
[:jalpha:] SJIS Roman characters.
[:jdigit:] SJIS Arabic numerals.
[:jpunct:] SJIS punctuation characters.
[:jparen:] SJIS parentheses characters.
[:jkanji:] SJIS kanji characters.
[:jhira:] SJIS hiragana characters.
[:jkata:] SJIS and half-width katakana characters.

End of Japanese Language Support Information

Using pattern-matching characters in file names on the command line has some restrictions. If the first character of a file name is a . (dot), it can be matched only by a pattern that begins with a dot. For example, `*file` matches the file names `myfile` and `yourfile`, but not `.myfile` or `.yourfile`. Use the pattern `*file` to match these file names.

If a pattern does not match any file names, the pattern itself is returned as the result of the match.

Note: File and directory names should not contain the characters `*`, `?`, `[`, or `]` because this may create infinite loops during pattern matching attempts.

Syntax Diagrams

Before each command discussion in the “Commands” section is a syntax diagram. These diagrams are designed to provide information about how to enter the command on the command line. A syntax diagram can tell you:

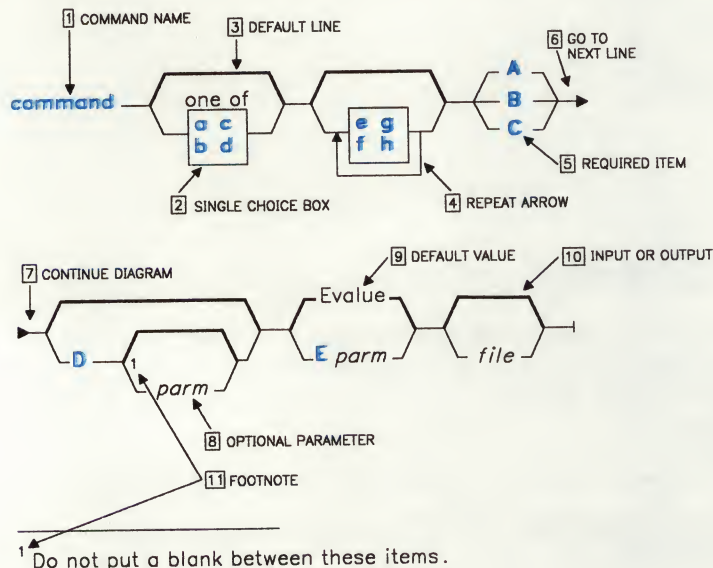
- Which flags can be entered on the command line
- Which flags must take parameters
- Which flags have optional parameters
- Default values of flags and parameters, if any
- Which flags can and cannot be entered together

- Where you must enter flags or parameters and where you have a choice
- Where you can repeat flag and parameter sequences.

This command reference uses the following conventions in the syntax diagrams:

- Diagram items that must be entered literally on the command line are in **bold**. These items include the command name, flags, and literal characters.
- Variable diagram items that must be replaced by a name are in *italics*. These items include parameters that follow flags and parameters that the command reads, such as *files* and *directories*.
- Default values that do not have to be entered are in the normal font on a **bold** path.

The following diagram is an example that illustrates the conventions used in the syntax diagrams. Each part of the diagram is labeled. An explanation of the labels follows the diagram.



OL805370

You interpret the diagram as follows:

1 COMMAND NAME

The first item in the diagram is the name of the command you want to invoke. It is in **bold**, so it must be entered exactly as it appears in the diagram.

After the command name, the path branches into two paths. You can follow either path.

2 SINGLE CHOICE BOX

If you follow the lower path, you encounter a box with the words *one of* over it. You can choose only one item from this box.

-
- 3 DEFAULT LINE If you follow the upper path, you bypass the single choice box, and enter nothing. The bold line around the box is a default line, which means that you do not have to enter anything from that part of the diagram. Exceptions are usually explained under "Description." One important exception, the blank default line around input and output files, is explained in item 10.
- 4 REPEAT ARROW When you follow a path that takes you to a box with an arrow around it, you must choose at least one item from the box. Then you can either follow the arrow back around and continue to choose items from it, or you can continue along the path. When following the arrow around just the box (rather than an arrow that includes several branches in the diagram), do not choose the same item more than once.
- 5 REQUIRED ITEM Following the branch with the repeat arrow is a branch with three choices and no default line around them. This means that you must choose one of A, B, or C.
- 6 GO TO NEXT LINE If a diagram is too long to fit on one line, this character tells you to go to the next line of the diagram to continue entering your command line. Remember, the diagram does not end until you reach the vertical mark.
- 7 CONTINUE DIAGRAM This character shows you where to continue with the diagram after it breaks on the previous line.
- 8 OPTIONAL PARAMETER If a flag can but does not have to take a parameter, the path branches after the flag. If you cannot enter a space between the flag and parameter, you are told in a footnote.
- 9 DEFAULT VALUE Often, a command has default values or actions that it will follow if you do not enter a specific item. These default values are indicated in normal font in the default line if they are equivalent to something you could enter on the command line (for example, a flag with a value). If the default is not something you can enter on the command line, it is not indicated in the diagram. However, it is discussed under "Flags."
- Note:** Default values are included in the diagram for your information. Do not enter them on the command line.
- 10 INPUT OR OUTPUT A command that can read either input files or standard input has an empty default line above the file parameter. If the command can write its output to either an output file or to standard output, it is also shown with an empty default line above the output file parameter. If a command can read only from standard input, an input file is not shown in the diagram, and standard input is assumed. If a command writes only to standard output, an output file is not shown in the diagram, and standard output is assumed. When you must supply a file name for input or output, the file parameter is included in the diagram without an empty default line above it.

11 FOOTNOTE

If a command has special requirements or restrictions, a footnote calls attention to these differences.

Following are examples of valid ways this command can be entered based on this syntax diagram.

```
command name A
command name C
command name a B
command name d B
command name e A
command name e g f A
command name C D
command name C D8
command name A E7
command name B myfile
command name a e g B D3 E6 myfile
command name d f e h C D myfile
```

When the order of flags is important, it is indicated in the diagram, under “Flags,” or in both places. Otherwise, the flags can be entered in any order. With this in mind, an additional example of how to enter this command is:

```
command name E9 a D g A h f myfile
```

For more detailed information on syntax diagrams, see Appendix C, “Syntax Diagram Guide” on page 1277.

Command, Flag, and Parameter Notation

The following type style conventions are used in command descriptions to distinguish different kinds of information:

- bold** Commands, flags, and other items in bold are to be entered literally.
- italics* Command parameters, flag parameters, and other items in italics are items for which you substitute an appropriate value in that position on the command line. For example, if you see *file*, you should type in the name of a file in that position.
- [] Items in brackets are optional. The only exception is brackets that are in bold. Brackets in bold are part of what should be entered literally.
- . . . Items followed by an ellipsis can be repeated. Thus, if you see *file . . .*, you can type several file names separated by blanks.

Using these conventions, the following string:

-Dname[= *value*]

shows that, with the **-D** flag, the *name* parameter is required but assigning a *value* to *name* is optional. The following are valid ways to specify this flag and parameter combination:

-Daxis
-Daxis=10

The next string shows a parameter that can be replaced by several values:

-l file . . .

The following are valid ways to enter the **-l** flag:

-l memo letter
-l memo
-l letter

Commands

This section contains reference information for the AIX commands. This information may include the purpose of a command, one or more syntax diagrams to illustrate how a command can be entered on a command line, a description of how a command works, descriptions of command flags and subcommands, a list of related files, and cross references to related information.

